

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application. No.: 10/802,868  
Attorney Docket No: Q80457

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,289,640 to Ueda *et al.* ("Ueda '640").

Additionally, Claims 4 and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Ueda '640.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 recites a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and a barrier layer.

In contrast, Ueda '640 relates to a seismic isolation sliding support bearing system used for buildings and bridges. *See*, col. 1, lines 7-13. Figure 2 thereof illustrates a lower sliding bearing 21 and a laminated rubber bearing 3 that includes a laminated rubber bearing upper base plate 31. *See*, col. 7, lines 52 to col. 8, line 2.

The claimed adhesive layer and barrier layer are different from the laminated rubber bearing 3 disclosed in Ueda '640. Ueda '640 discloses that the laminated rubber bearing upper base plate 31 is part of the laminated rubber bearing 3 thereof. Ueda '640 discloses that when an earthquake occurs the upper sliding bearing 11 and lower sliding bearing 21 slide. *See*, col. 7, lines 44-51. The laminated rubber bearing 3 acts as a spring (similar to spring 13 in Figure 1), such that the cushion action returns the sliding bearings to their original positions. *See*, col. 7, line 65 to col. 8, line 2. The laminated rubber bearing upper base plate 31 facilitates this spring action. This is different from an adhesive layer and barrier layer.

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Further, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the laminated rubber bearing 3 and the laminated rubber bearing upper base plate 31 disclosed in Ueda '640 into the claimed adhesive layer and barrier layer. The proposed modification cannot render the cited art unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. MPEP § 2143.01 (V) (2005). If the claimed adhesive layer and barrier layer are present in the seismic isolation sliding support bearing system disclosed in Ueda '640, the sliding bearings thereof would not return to their original positions after an earthquake.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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